

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3728
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
TELEPHONE FACILITY TO ARMED FORCES
ASHOK ARGAL;JAI PRAKASH;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the Kargil conflict an announcement was made by the Government that telephone facility to the personnel of the armed forces posted in Siachen would be made available at the one fourth rate;
- (b) if so, whether the said scheme started by the Government has been a failure; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) Sir, the Government announced telephone facility to the armed forces and para military forces at one fourth rate of call charges for the STD calls made from the PCOs in Kargil, Nobra and Leh SDCAs, operated by the armed forces whether on INMARSAT terminal or on land lines. ISD calls made to Nepal from these PCOs are also covered under the concessional tariff facility.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.